



HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE  
STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 3, 2005

**CONTACT: JAYSON WATTS**  
Phone: (808) 586-7344

## **HOUSE AND SENATE FISCAL COMMITTEES TO VISIT THE VALLEY ISLE**

HONOLULU – Senator Shan S. Tsutsui (D-Central Maui), Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means today announced that Senate Ways and Means Committee Chairman, Senator Brian T. Taniguchi (D-Moiliili-McCully-Manoa) and House Finance Committee Chairman, Representative Dwight Y. Takamine (D-Hamakua) will lead a delegation of state lawmakers on a 3-day island wide visit to the Valley Isle.

"The Legislature's fiscal committees have an oversight responsibility for the state's financial matters and it's a responsibility we take very seriously," said House Finance Chairman Takamine.

The delegation comprised of both House and Senate lawmakers will visit various state and county officials, community facilities and projects in order of gaining a better understanding of the current and future financial, capital improvement, and support needs of the county of Maui.

"Good public policy begins with first seeing and interacting with the people, agencies, and facilities that are directly affected by the decisions we make," said Senator Tsutsui. "And this is what this is. We want to make sure lawmakers undoubtedly understand who we are and what our needs are."

The delegation will arrive on the Valley Isle on the morning of October 5<sup>th</sup>. Members will travel from central Maui to Lahaina to Kihei to upcountry completing their visit on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The Maui site visit will be the culmination of months of hard work by members and their staffs. The committees also conducted site visits in August and September to the Big Island and Kauai.

"Maui is composed of a number of diverse communities, each with its own needs. As lawmakers, we need to understand those needs, and this visit will give us an opportunity to do so," added Ways & Means Chairman Brian Taniguchi. "Maui's very unique, especially because of the separation and distance between its communities – although we are not able to visit Moloka'i, Lāna'i and Hāna this time around, the committees plan to do so sometime in the very near future."

(More, Over)

Media Release  
***“House and Senate Fiscal  
Committees to Visit Valley Isle”***  
October 3, 2005; Page 2

Senator J. Kalani English (D- Hāna, Moloka‘i, Lāna‘i, Kaho‘olawe, Molokini, Haiku, Upcountry) agrees saying, "The two Committees have visited Hāna in the past and I hope that we can visit Lāna‘i and Moloka‘i in the future. In the meantime, I intend to make sure that the issues and interests of Hāna, Moloka‘i, Lāna‘i, and Kaho‘olawe are brought to the attention of the legislators as we tour other parts of Maui County."

"I'm looking forward to this visit." Tsutsui added, "There are many questions that still need to be answered – especially by the Director of Transportation, in regards to the superferry, cruise ships, the Paia bypass, infrastructure backlogs-both highways and harbors, and the update of the harbors master plan, etc. Legislators, especially our constituents deserve direct answers and we expect them."

Senator Roz Baker (D-South and West Maui) commented, "I'm pleased the money committees will be coming to Lahaina to get a better understanding of our school needs, our traffic situation, issues within the visitor industry and be briefed on the improvements at Lahaina harbor."

"We hope to show our colleagues why the Westside needs a new elementary school as well as other critical school facilities," added Rep. Kameo Tanaka (D-Lahaina-Maalaea-North Kihei). "Visiting our schools and community facilities and projects will provide lawmakers a better understanding of the financial support needs and concerns of Maui."

Additionally, on Friday, the committee will stop at Maalaea Harbor for a briefing on the progress of renovations and infrastructure issues there. Senator Baker noted, "That stop is a follow-up to the 1993 visit when the committee held a hearing in Kihei. The community was very vocal about no pump-out facilities and other concerns at Maalaea Harbor. The next two sessions we provided resources for DLNR and now we want to see what's happened."

"There are many unmet needs on Maui that I want my colleagues to review first hand," said Representative Kyle Yamashita, representing Upcountry Maui. "Now that the state's economy is doing well, there should be more resources for the community, and we want to make sure that Maui gets a fair share."

Representative Mele Carroll (D- Hāna, Moloka‘i, Lāna‘i, Kaho‘olawe, Molokini, Haiku, Keanae, Wailua, Nahiku) added, "Although the committees will not be able to visit Hāna, Moloka‘i, and Lāna‘i this time around, the importance of my district to the Legislature is reassured by plans to schedule a separate visit to the district sometime in early November."

(More, Over)

Media Release  
***“House and Senate Fiscal  
Committees to Visit Valley Isle”***  
October 3, 2005; Page 3

Senator English closed by adding, " The Maui delegation works closely together to make sure the needs of Maui County are addressed by the Legislature. This trip is an excellent opportunity for legislators to see the unique circumstances of our communities here in Maui County."

# # #

For more information, please contact:

Jayson M. Watts  
Legislative Assistant  
Phone: (808) 586-7344  
Email: [watts@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:watts@capitol.hawaii.gov)